7th February 1924]

Police.

Representation of the depressed classes in the constabulary.

224 Q.—Mr. L. C. Guruswami : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(*a*) to call for and lay on the table a statement showing the number of constables and head constables in the various districts of this Presidency ; and

(*b*) to state how many of them are members of the depressed classes

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to statement D appended to the Police Administration Report.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to G.Os. Nos. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922 and 563, Public, dated 21st July 1923, both of which have been placed on the Editors' Table. The returns called for in this latter Government Order will be published in due course and will give the information required.

Railways.

Railway line between Salem junction and Atur.

225 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a scheme for a railway line between Salem junction and Atur was sanctioned long ago and partly constructed ;

(*b*) whether the railway cess was being collected on the understanding that the line would be extended to Atur ; and

(*c*) the reasons why the scheme has been given up ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Not so far as Government are aware.

(*c*) The project has not been given up but is merely held up. The reasons for this are explained in the answer to question No. 226.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to expedite construction of the line ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" May I refer my hon. Friend to the answer to clause (*c*) of the following question 226 where it is stated that the construction of the line will depend on the settlement of the gauge question and the district board's capacity to finance or guarantee the line."

The Salem district board railway scheme.

226 Q.—Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state regarding the Salem District Board Railway scheme—

(*a*) whether any reply has been received from the Railway Board about the decision of the gauge of the proposed Panruti-Trichinopoly line ;

(*b*) why the Salem-Atur Railway scheme has been delayed, although all the preliminary works were completed long ago ;